your valley

"The Grand River Conservation Authority is a corporate body established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to manage watershed resources and related conservation projects in partnership with its member municipalities and the Province."

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS AND HONOUR ROLL AWARD FOR 1991

Remembering the Past, Preparing for the Future

Each year since 1976, the Grand River Conservation Authority has recognized people and organizations who have taken part in remembering the past and preparing for the future of conservation work in the Grand River watershed. This recognition comes in one of two forms: Certificates of Appreciation for noteworthy achievements on an individual or project basis, and Honour Roll Awards for lifetime contributions to the broader goals of conservation.

In this the Conservation Authority's 25th year, a total of ten Certificates and one Honour Roll were awarded at the November 27th General Membership meeting in Cambridge.

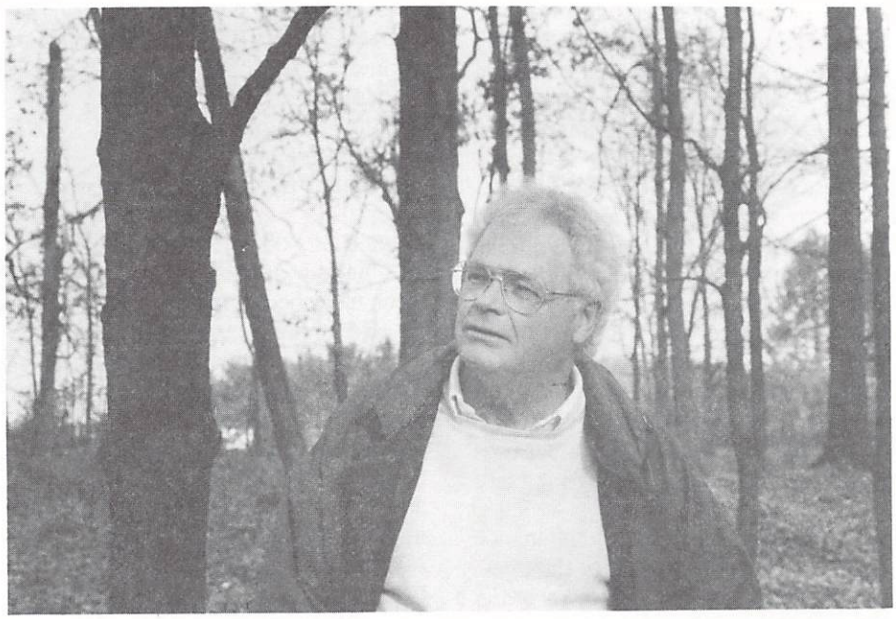
Some of this year's recipients have been engaged in restoring what we were in danger of losing. Others have been committing their efforts to a better tomorrow that they can only imagine. All of them have been taking different paths toward a common goal - our common future. Therefore, with this edition of *Your Valley*, we invite you to read on to discover the environmental dedication of this year's award recipients.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION RECIPIENTS

George Stormont

George Stormont started work with the Conservation Authority in 1969, three years after its formation. From that time, until his retirement as Director of Communications this year, Mr. Stormont was responsible for laying the foundation for many conservation information and education programs in the Grand River watershed.

An early challenge was to provide conservation education to the children in our watershed. Mr. Stormont offered pilot education programs to watershed school boards at no charge. This introduction to conservation and the GRCA grew rapidly over the years. Today there are four permanent Nature Centres at



***An Educating Career** - Certificate of Appreciation Recipient George Stormont retired this year after 22 years of guiding the GRCA's conservation information and education programs.*

Apps' Mill, Guelph Lake, Laurel Creek and Taquanyah. Free Sunday interpretive programs and group programs by reservation continue to spread the Conservation Authority's message. GRCA Resource Interpreters have taught over half a million children at the Centres, and these Centres now provide curriculum based education to 7 school boards in the Grand River watershed.

Mr. Stormont also directed the development of the GRCA's Information Section, with its publication and audio-visual programs, and a wide range of communication activities, including the Grand Van. His goal was to reach as many people in as many ways as possible. When we look around today, and realize how many people's lives have been touched by the results of Mr. Stormont's career with the GRCA, it's obvious that he succeeded in this goal.

Mr. Stormont is still active as a member of the Maitland Valley and Grand Valley Conservation Foundations. As our Foundation's Projects Chairman, George remains involved in conservation work in the Grand River watershed.

***Completely Reforested** - Ray and Sid Hester have completely reforested their farm, which now contains one of the largest black walnut plantations in the Province of Ontario.*

Sid and Ray Hester

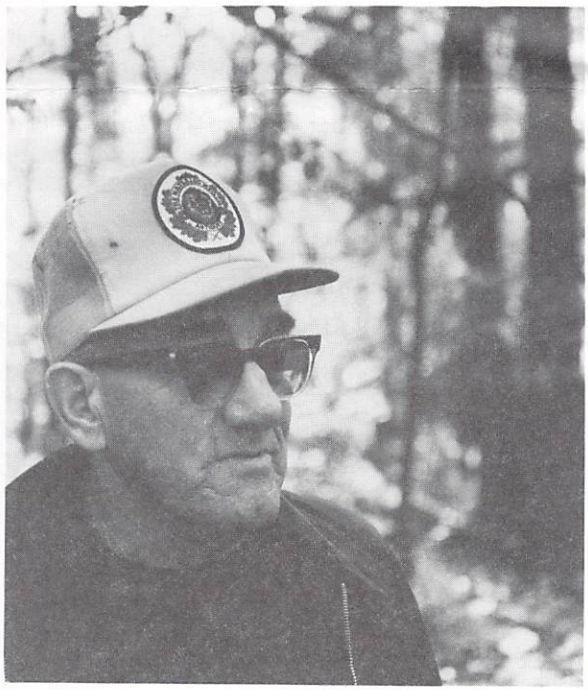
Sid Hester and his wife Ray own a 100 acre farm near Middleport, south of Brantford. For over 20 years, the Hesters have been looking toward the future through an extensive reforestation program on their land. In 1968 their land became one of the first reforestation farms in Brant County. Since then the Hesters have been planting trees on their land until the farm is totally reforested today.

The trees have thrived on the sandy soil conditions in the mild Carolinian forest climate, and provide habitat for many types of wildlife. Over 200,000 trees now cover the Hester's land, 100,000 of which are black walnut. In fact, Mr. Hester's black walnut plantation is one of the largest in the Province. The Ministry of Natural Resources uses seed from this plantation for its nursery stock.

This much work requires maintenance to ensure a healthy future for the trees. And the Hesters hire people to prune and thin their plantations on a regular basis. All of this work certainly involved an investment, but as Mr. Hester said, "We don't get a financial return, that's not the idea." However, it's clear that many others will benefit from the Hester's investment in the future.

Wayne Houston

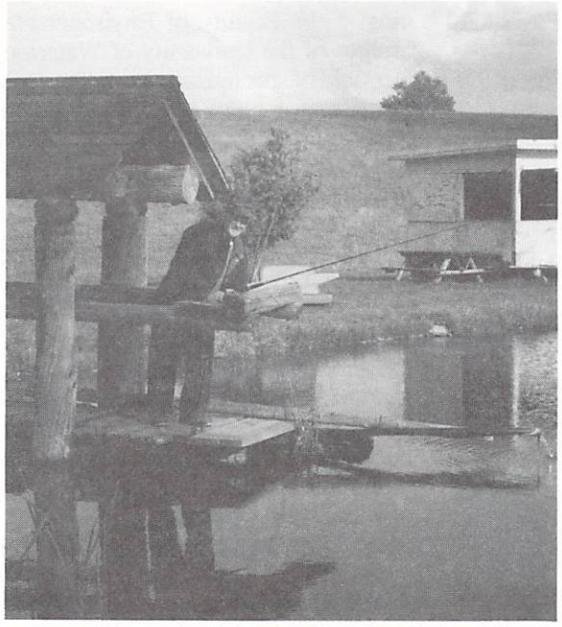
Wayne Houston has been tending his 100 acre farm near Moorefield since 1954. The farm has been in the family name since 1897 when his grandfather purchased it. Over the years he has planted 30,000 trees on his land. Many of the trees have been planted as windbreaks on land that is not suitable for farming. The trees also provide habitat for a variety of wildlife.



***Another 100,000 Trees** - Wayne Houston hopes to plant another 100,000 trees on his land, to complete the reforestation work he has begun.*

Mr. Houston also has an interest in the past. He has carefully restored two antique tractors and two steam driven sawmills, that are all in working order.

Mr. Houston knows his land and the trees he has reforested it with very well. But he feels that he hasn't done enough. Even at the age of 70 Mr. Houston has dreams for the future. He still hopes to plant another 100,000 trees on his farm and watch even more of his land become covered with more life for tomorrow.



Spring Fed Pond - Sheldon Cosens has established wildlife habitat on his farm by reforesting and creating a spring fed pond.

Sheldon Cosens

Sheldon Cosens has owned a 150 acre farm in the Moorefield area since 1947. He and Mr. Houston are neighbours, and share some of the same conservation farming interests. Mr. Cosens started reforesting his land in 1961 with the planting of 4800 trees.

In 1961 he also began converting a swampy area on his farm into a fish pond. There are a number of springs on his land and one of them feeds the 1/2 acre fish pond. The water in the pond is clear and stocked with rainbow trout. The trout have been thriving since Mr. Cosens installed two large tiles in the pond to shelter them from hungry herons. Overflow from the pond enters a creek on the farm that flows into the Conestogo River.

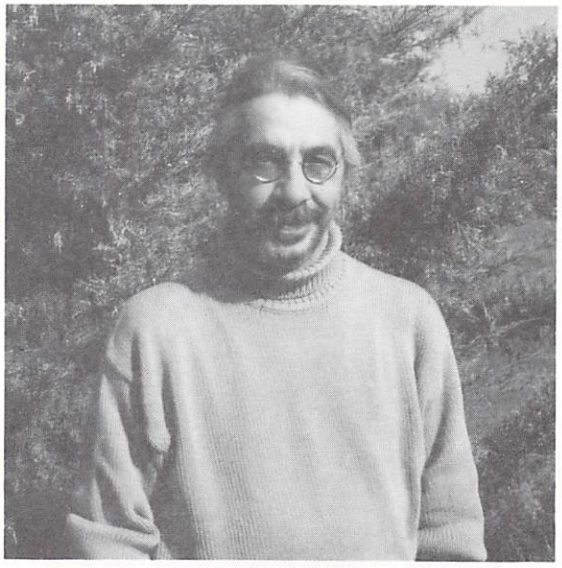
Fishing for rainbows isn't just for the Cosens family. For the last couple of years, the Moorefield Optimist Club has held a popular family fishing day at the pond on the Cosens farm.

Cayuga Secondary School

The students at Cayuga Secondary School ensured that Environment Day was a day to be remembered in Cayuga this year. 500 signs were posted in and around Cayuga proclaiming that "What enters the Grand River could enter our Drinking water" followed by the distance from each sign to the town's water intake lines. Over 500 students took part in this Cayuga Clearwater Revival.

Science teacher Dan Veri spent 2 months organizing a full day of events to illustrate the importance of understanding the ecology of the Grand River in the Cayuga area. Some students mapped and marked all catch basins in Cayuga to discover where storm water runoff gained access to the river. Other students sampled fish and insect life in the river as indicators of the river's health. Others tested water quality at the York, Cayuga and Caledonia bridges. Some toured the sewage treatment plant in order to find out how sewage was treated before it entered the river. Ten other groups of students were bused to ten sites to test the change in water quality from MacKenzie Creek to Dunnville. Many indicators were monitored, and Environment Canada is incorporating the data gathered by the students into a Canada Centre for Inland Waters report. And another group of students sold 1000 trees to local residents.

The students of Cayuga Secondary School made this an extraordinary Environment Day. They will definitely remember Mr. Veri's lessons about our environment and the inter-relationships in the ecology of the Grand River.



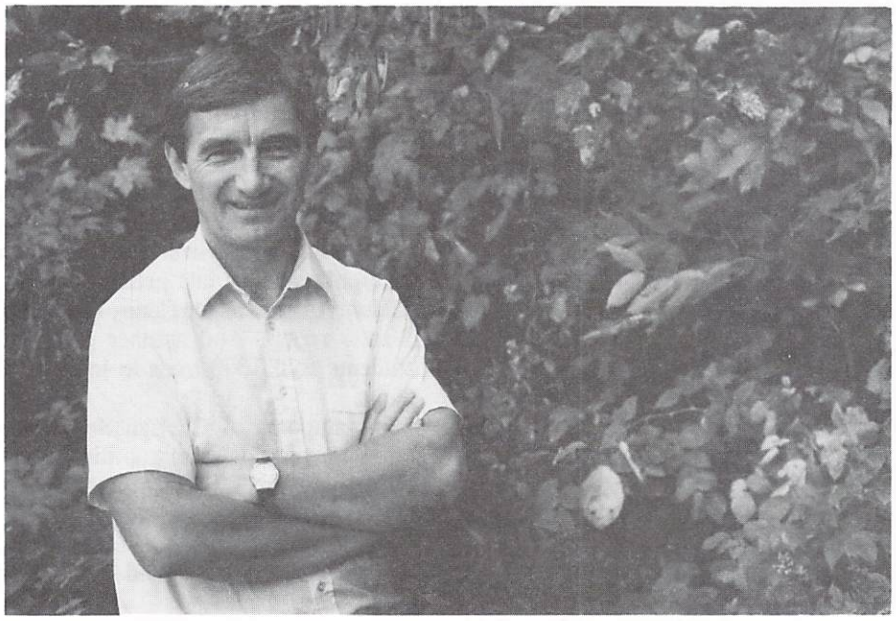
Cayuga Clearwater Revival - Science teacher Dan Veri and his 500 students organized an unforgettable series of events on Environment Day this year.

Frank Glew

Frank Glew has been teaching outdoor education with the Waterloo County Board of Education for over 20 years. He started with the board when outdoor education was in its infancy and helped it grow to its present extensive set of programs operating out of four Nature Centres.

Dr. Glew is known for initiating new directions in education. A number of years ago he developed a popular survival game for students. In this game children play the roles of different creatures in order to understand how the natural world works. This game has spread to other countries such as Australia, where Dr. Glew recently discovered that it is played with Canadian instead of native Australian animals.

Dr. Glew has also brought his students hands on involvement in water conservation activities, tree planting, bird banding and a host of other programs. He is known at the Board as an innovative teacher who continually fine tunes his approaches to teaching. One of his most important initiatives was the introduction of values education into his curriculum a number of years ago. At the time, stressing the value of our environment and our relationship to it was ahead of its time. Today, education seems to have caught up with his early approaches to teaching students how to care for our world and our future.



***Mr. Outdoor Education** - Dr. Frank Glew has helped to guide the development of outdoor and environmental education at the Waterloo County Board of Education for over 20 years.*

Ann Smith

Ann Smith has been teaching for 33 years. For 31 of them she has been teaching science at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute. During that time her concern for the environment has touched the lives of many thousands of students. In 1970 when most of us hadn't heard of Earth Day yet, she made sure that Guelph Collegiate was perhaps the first school in Canada to celebrate the first Earth Day.

She has brought speakers into the school from the Guelph International Resource Centre and organized environmental field trips for her students. She helped to ensure that Guelph Collegiate was one of the first schools to begin a recycling program. On one occasion she organized a city-wide cleanup with her students that began on streets leading to the city centre and concluded in the heart of Guelph.

Mrs. Smith is also actively involved with community environmental groups. She is a member of the Guelph Environmental Roundtable, and the Guelph Field Naturalists. Through her involvement with Trees for Guelph, she arranged to have 600 students take part in tree plantings this spring. Last month she arranged to have Robert Bateman speak at Guelph Collegiate. Some of the Conservation Authority's employees were once her students. After more than 30 years of science teaching and environmental work, her commitment remains strong to the future of our environment.

Dr. Mary Ellen Tyler

Dr. Mary Ellen Tyler is a Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the Faculty of Environmental Studies of the University of Waterloo. Her field of specialization is urban ecology. Urban ecology examines the interrelationship between natural ecological processes, surface and groundwater, and human land use.

Her interest in this complex field of study made her a perfect contributor to the Laurel Creek watershed study. The data gathered by her third year urban ecology students have provided essential information for watershed planning. Dr. Tyler regards the rehabilitation of Laurel Creek as particularly important because, as she said recently, "If we don't have healthy streams to study, how can we fix sick ones?"

She has also helped to develop the Bechtel Park Master Plan. The goals of this plan are to reduce erosion, and to preserve a wetland right next to the Conestoga Parkway, as well as the ecosystem of the whole park area. Dr. Tyler's energy is legendary among her colleagues. It should sustain her work in preserving the sustainability of complex ecological systems.

Dr. Ed Reinhart

Dr. Ed Reinhart has owned a 150 acre farm along both sides of the Nith River in Ayr for 30 years. During that time he

***Still Planning for the Future** - Even after 33 years of teaching Ann Smith still looks forward to more environmental action and education.*

has carried out numerous conservation projects on what he fondly calls his "funny farm." He has planted over 30,000 trees on the property and watched them change from saplings to mature trees which now tower over him. He has preserved Carolinian trees such as the sycamore.

Dr. Reinhart has also placed berms along the scenic Nith to stabilize the banks and prevent erosion. He figures that the Nith has carried enough topsoil down to the Grand River over the years.

He has installed three ponds, as well as a small dam to create and expand wetlands on his farm. And last but not least he has placed scenic lookouts along the river where he can enjoy the fruits of his labour.

Dr. Reinhart continues to work hard on these projects. He regards his conservation work as "life insurance" that will extend his golden years. When asked how long he plans to continue, he replies, "A little bit beyond as long as possible."

Golden Years *- Dr. Ed Reinhart continues to tend his "funny farm" along the Nith River in Ayr.*

Chris and Mary-Jean Page

Chris and Mary-Jean Page are medical doctors who live on the Nith River in the community of Greenfield near Dr. Reinhart's farm.

When the Pages bought the run down miller's house in the 1970s a tributary of the Nith ran through their basement. Their friends told them the house was a money pit. As it turned out the house was sound and they have carefully restored it inside to an elegance that its previous owners may have never known. A new sun room now looks over the Nith, and in the summer much of the historic property is covered with flowers.

In addition to the painstaking work on the house, the Pages have undertaken a number of projects on their land with some very long term benefits. As well as retaining items of historical interest such as the sluice gates at the former dam, the Pages are ensuring that the future is taken care of as well. The swamp on their land is one of two sites in Ontario where the black redhorse sucker is found, which up until recently was thought to be extinct.

One of their most important projects is the re-establishment of Carolinian trees on their property. Carolinian forest is part of the history of their land and they want the genetic diversity it represents restored. The Pages are proud of their restoration of the past and their preparations for the future. They hope that their work will be preserved for future generations.

Urban Ecology *- GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie presents Dr. Mary Ellen Tyler with a Certificate of Appreciation. Dr. Tyler worked on the Laurel Creek watershed plan and the Bechtel Park Master Plan.*

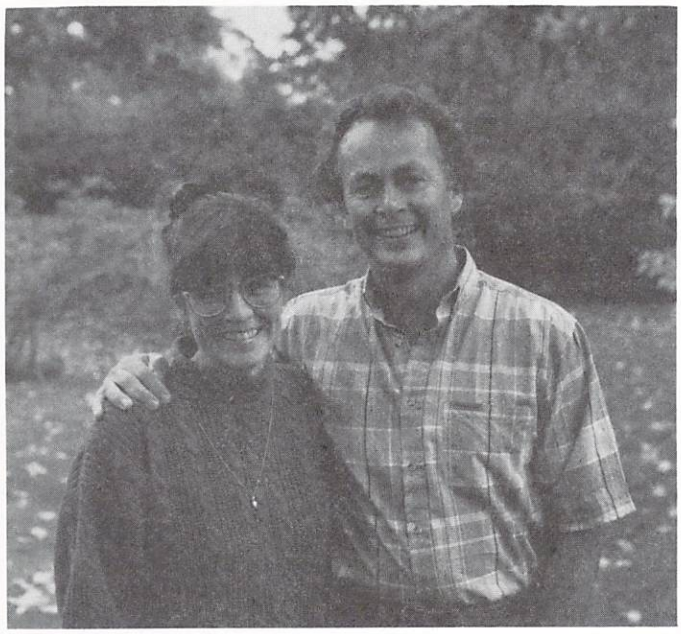
Your Valley is a topical publication of the Grand River Conservation Authority that complements regular editions of "On the Grand". Since only single copies of "Your Valley" will be sent to addresses on our mailing list, multiple copies or back issues may be obtained by contacting the Communication Section at (519) 621-2761 in Cambridge.

HONOUR ROLL RECIPIENT

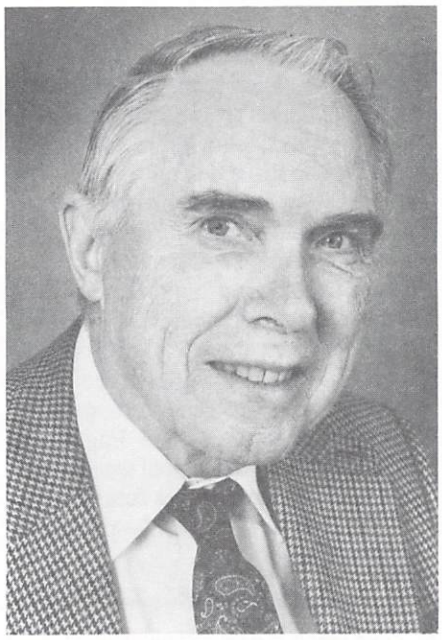
Arthur D. Latornell

Arthur Latornell was born on January 4, 1923, on his family's farm near Meaford. He received his B.S.A. in Horticulture from Ontario Agricultural College (University of Guelph) in 1950, and his M.Sc. degree in 1953 from Michigan State University. He also obtained a certificate in Public Administration from the University of Toronto in 1967.

Art's working career began in 1953, as a Resources Manager for the Conservation Authorities Branch, Department of Planning and Development. During this period Art worked extensively with the Ganaraska, Holland, Etobicoke-Mimico and other Conservation Authorities. He was assigned to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as its Resources Manager, upon that Authority's establishment in 1957. Art's career then led him to the position of Head of the Land Use Section of the Conservation Authorities Branch in 1959, and Head of the Field Services Section in 1962. It was at this time that Art undertook the field work for the Whiteman Creek Conservation Study, a tributary of the Grand River west of Brantford, which was one of the first small watershed studies in Ontario. In 1972, the Conservation Authorities Branch became part of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Art became the Branch's Director in May of 1973.



A Better Tomorrow - Drs. Mary-Jean and Chris Page are restoring their property in the hope of helping to create a better future.



Arthur D. Latornell - Mr. Latornell's broad and varied career had a profound impact on conservation work in Ontario.

From 1977 until his retirement in early 1988, Art was Deputy Regional Director for the Central Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Art was known as a director receptive to new ideas, and was especially interested in youth activities. This interest led Art to play a lead role in creation of the Junior Conservationist program, which has given many young people an introduction to careers in conservation.

In addition to these duties, Art's career encompassed a long-term involvement as a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), at both the provincial chapter and international levels. As a member of the Society's Canadian Regional Council from 1968 to 1973, Art served on the Conservation Education and Urban/Suburban Conservation Committees.

From 1975 through 1979, Art was an executive member to the parent organization, and served as International President in 1978. Since that time, Art became a member of the Conservation History, International Affairs, Position Statement and Public Affairs Committees. From 1973, Art's SWCS work also involved membership on the editorial board of the "Journal of Soil and Water Conservation," of which he had been Chairman since 1979.

In other related interests, Art was a Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.), a charter member of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists, and a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. He was also a Director of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and a member of the Canadian Nature Federation.

With a career so broad and varied, encompassing involvement with senior levels of both government and related professional organizations, Art had a profound influence in guiding the work of conservation in its formative and expanding years. Arthur D. Latornell passed away on September 6, 1991, and his dedication and contributions will be sorely missed.